

**USAID/ FFP Cash Assistance
Baseline Report
Yobe State, Nigeria
Jan 2015**



USAID/Food For Peace Cash Assistance Project

Baseline Report

Yobe State, Northern Nigeria

January 2015

by the ACF FFP/Cash Transfer Team Yobe

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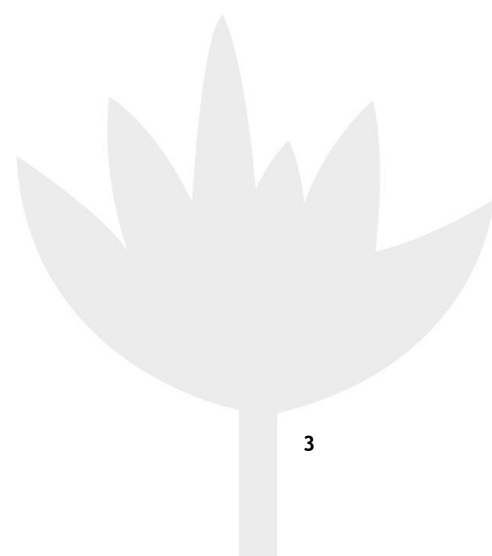
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1. INTRODUCTION

Action Against Hunger | ACF Nigeria is implementing a cash assistance program in Yobe State funded by USAID/Food For Peace. Beneficiary households have been targeted and the baseline data was collected in January 2015.

In compliance with ACF monitoring and evaluation guidelines and procedures, the baseline survey was conducted in the beginning of the project, before the first transfer, and was conducted in the three Local Government Agencies (LGA) of the project implementation, thus Damaturu, Potiskum and Fune LGA in Yobe State.

The baseline survey will document the situation of the beneficiary households before the first transfer, and will be followed and complemented by monthly post distribution monitoring, market price monitoring as well as an endline survey at the end of the project in Sept/Oct 2015.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the baseline survey were:

- To document the demographic characteristics of the targeted population
- To establish the current coping mechanisms at the disposal of the targeted households in the three LGAs.
- To determine the baseline food consumption score for both households and children in the three LGAs.
- To define any correlations of these indicators presenting particularly vulnerable profiles within the targeted population.

3. METHODOLOGY

A total of 3000 Households are benefiting from the USAID/FFP cash transfer project. 600 households (20 %) were selected using the Stratified Random Sampling procedure. A total of 12 enumerators were engaged for data collection training on the various indicators collected. The team was deployed for five days to complete the data collection of the selected households.

A total of 300 households were selected in Damaturu LGA, 180 households in Potiskum LGA and 120 households in Fune LGA. For each selected household, a structured and coded household questionnaire was administered to the head of household. The responses were entered, cleaned and imported into Excel software for analysis.

4. RESULTS

a. Household Demography

The household surveys revealed a number of details about the beneficiary household composition. The average household size was 10.9 members, ranging between 9.9 in Damaturu and 12.9 in Potiskum. Similarly, the average dependency ratio was 4.1, ranging between 3.2 in Fune and 4.8 in Potiskum, see as well Table 1 below.

Table 1: Household Member Profile and Dependency Ratio by LGA and in total

HH member	Damaturu	Fune	Potiskum	Total
Average # HH members	9.9	10.0	12.9	10.9
# Children in HH	4.5	5.0	5.3	4.8
# Providers in HH	2.5	3.2	2.7	2.7
HH Dependency Ratio	4.1	3.2	4.8	4.1

On average 66.2 % of households were male headed, 33.8 % female headed. Fune LGA had the highest proportion of female headed households with 45.8 %. Details per LGA can be observed in Figure 1 below.

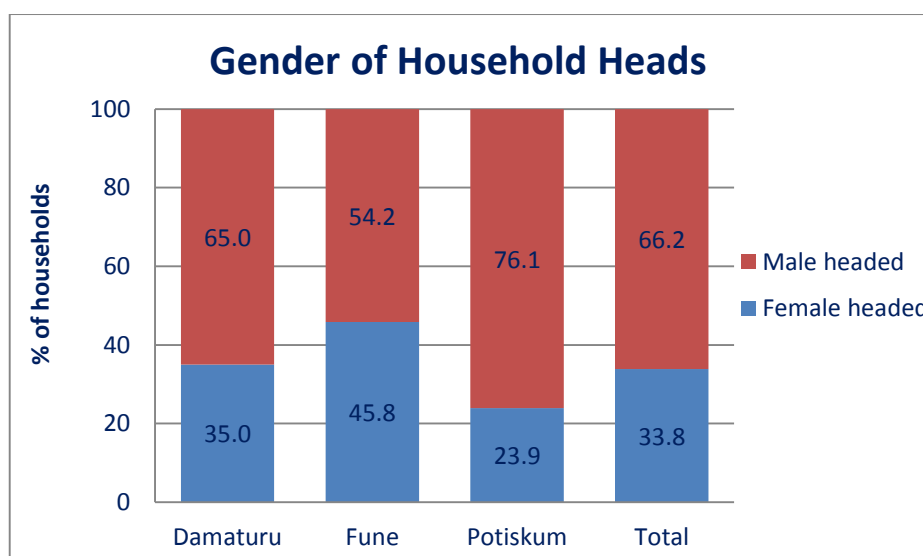


Figure 1: Gender of Household Head per LGA and in total

The vast majority of household heads ranged in the age group of 30-60years olds, with an average proportion of 67% for all LGAs. No household heads under age of 16 years were recorded. Details can be see Figure 2 below.

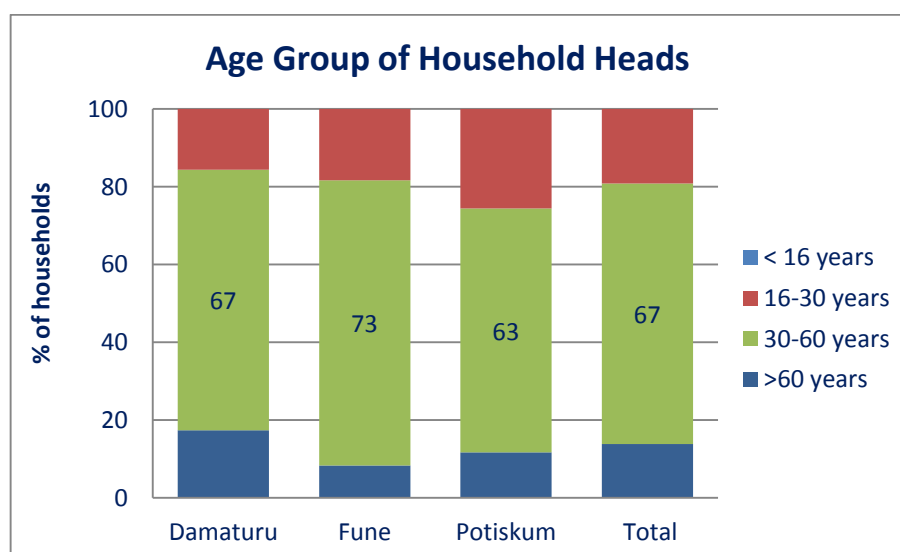


Figure 2: Age Group of Household head per LGA and in total

b. Household Income Profile

Asked for their main income sources, households reported casual labour and petty trade as the top two income sources. Sale of crops was especially in Damaturu, a major income source. Details can be seen in Figure 3 below.

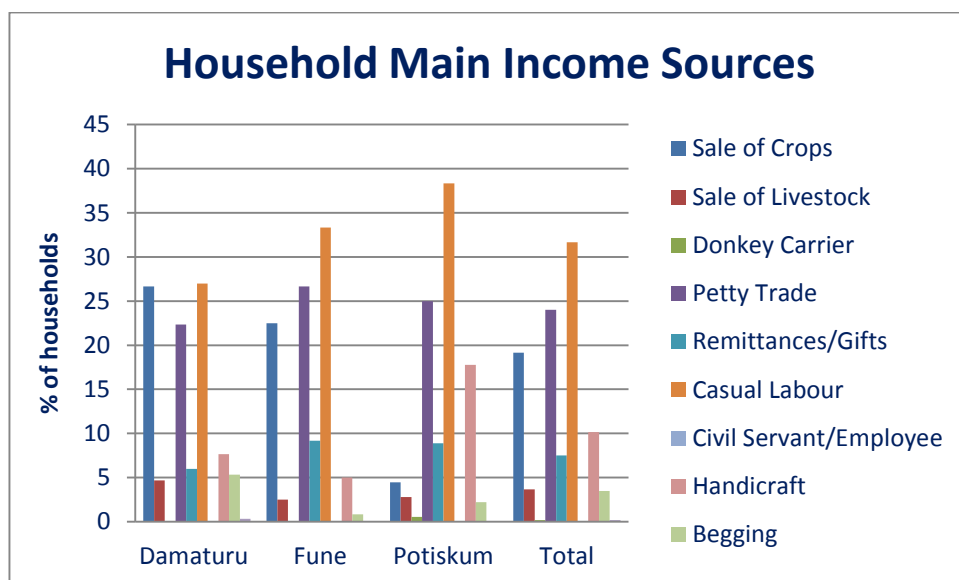


Figure 3: Household Main Income Sources per LGA and in total

c. Household Coping Strategies

Applying the reduced coping strategy index (standard five coping strategy index following CARE/WFP, 2008), and asking households' use of provided coping strategies when experiencing food shortages during the past week, households reported the following. Especially *eating less preferred food* was much employed, with Fune topping the list with 5.3 days over the past week. *Restriction of consumption by adults for children to eat* was the least employed strategy, though most used in Potiskum with 3.2 times during last week. More details per LGA can be seen in Figure 4 below.

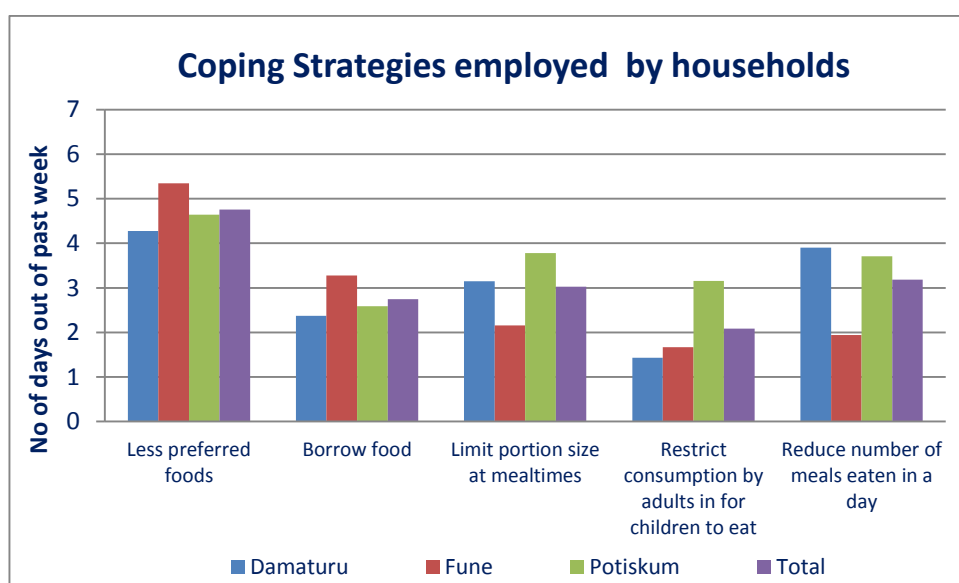


Figure 4: Household Coping Strategies per LGA and in total

Additionally, the households coping strategy index was calculated using a severity score (1-3) for more and less severe strategies being employed, based on the Standard Coping Strategy Index tool (Care/WFP, 2008). The maximum score feasible is 56, indicating all coping strategies are used over the past seven days. The average score across the surveyed LGAs was 22.7 indicating some coping, but referring back to less severe coping strategies at this point of time. Potiskum showed the highest score mainly due to the indication of *reducing adults' food intake for children*, as this strategy is scored with the highest severity (weight of 3). LGA scores are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Household Reduced Coping Strategies and Coping Strategy Index

Household Coping and Coping Strategy Index				
	Damaturu	Fune	Potiskum	TOTAL
Less preferred foods	4.3	5.3	4.6	4.8
Borrow food	4.7	6.6	5.2	5.5
Limit portion size at mealtimes	3.1	2.2	3.8	3.0
Restrict consumption by adults in for children to eat	4.3	5.0	9.5	6.3
Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	3.9	1.9	3.7	3.2
Calculated Coping Strategy Index (out of max.56 points)	20.4	21.0	26.8	22.7

d. Households Borrowing Money

A large proportion of households are able to borrow money, with an average of 85.3%, and Potiskum leading the LGAs with 88.9% of the interviewed households. Though unclear from who these households borrow, it is a good indication that they are credible, and have access to money. This could potentially have later negative impacts in case of households becoming insolvable and unable to pay back their credits. Details are shown in Figure 5 below.

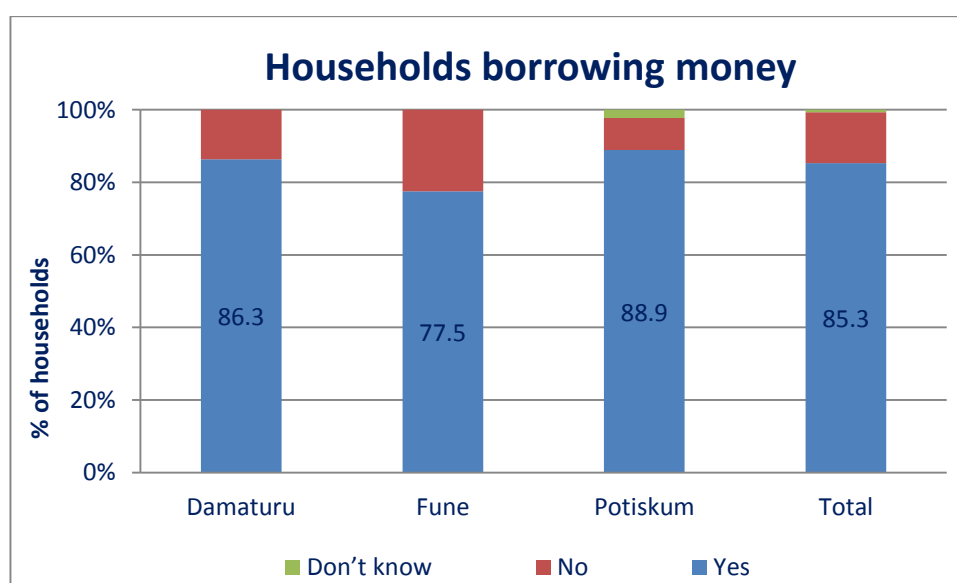


Figure 5: percentage of Households borrowing money

Asked for the priority use of this borrowed money, the large majority of households indicated food as the priority need, with 66.8% on average, and Damaturu leading with 75.7% of the households.

Additional health and basic needs were mentioned, but with much lower proportions. More details are shown in Figure 6 below.

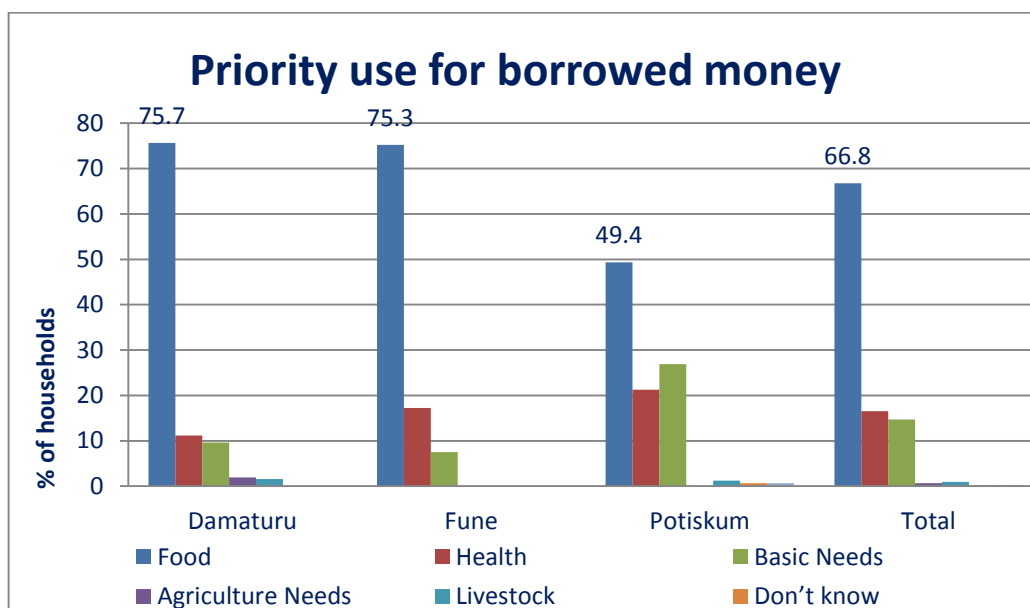


Figure 6: Percentage of Households using borrowed money for priority needs

e. Household Food Consumption and Score

Using the standard Household Dietary Diversity Score food groups (FANTA, 2006), households indicated the number of consumed food groups over the past 24 hours. Starchy foods with cereal and tubers, as well as legumes were mainly consumed foods. Sugars scored high but are likely due to the local sweet tea culture. The consumption of animal proteins was very low. To note, in Damaturu none of the households indicated consumption of cereals, but all indicated the consumption of tubers and roots. This is coherent with the sale of crops as part of the income source, and replacement of less preferred foods. An overview is presented in the Figure 7 below.

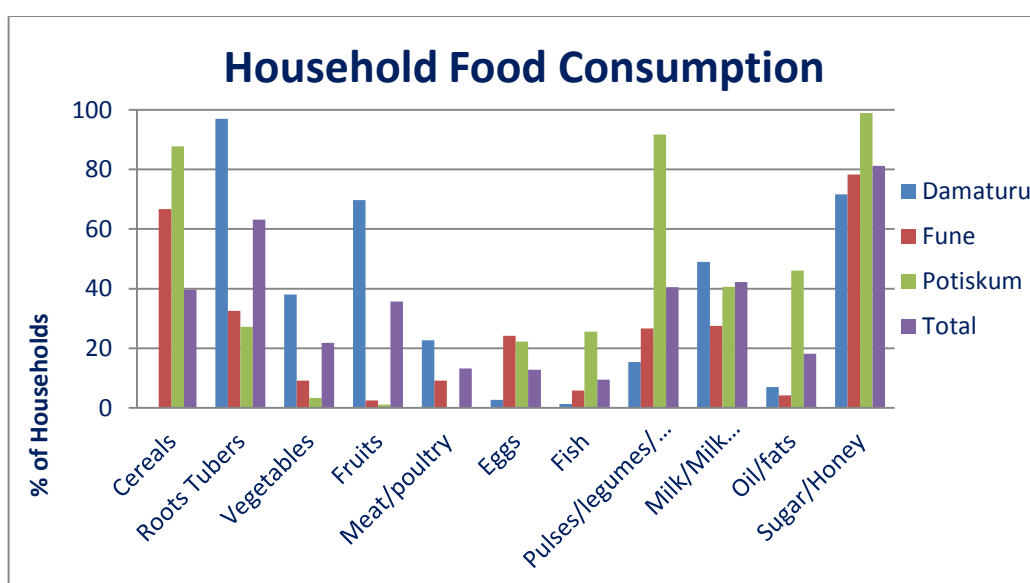


Figure 7: Percentage of Households consuming various food groups

In parallel, households were asked about the consumption of food groups by children under 5 years of age. A similar pattern was observed as the adults.

Additionally, calculating the household and child dietary diversity score based on the FANTA tool (2006), indicates that children in all LGAs have a better dietary diversity scores than the adults, indicating that they have consumed more food groups over the last 24 hrs than the adults in the same households. With scores between 2.9 and 4.8 out of 12 possible total scores, Potiskum had the highest scores with 4.4 for the adults and 4.8 for the children respectively. This is in line with the coping strategy index indicating households reducing adult intake for improved child food intake. Fune had the lowest adult score with 2.9, Damaturu had the lowest child score with 3.9. Overall all LGAs present dietary diversity scores below the minimum acceptable score of 6 food groups (0-5 low, 6-8 acceptable, 9-12 good).Details are shown in Figure 8 below.

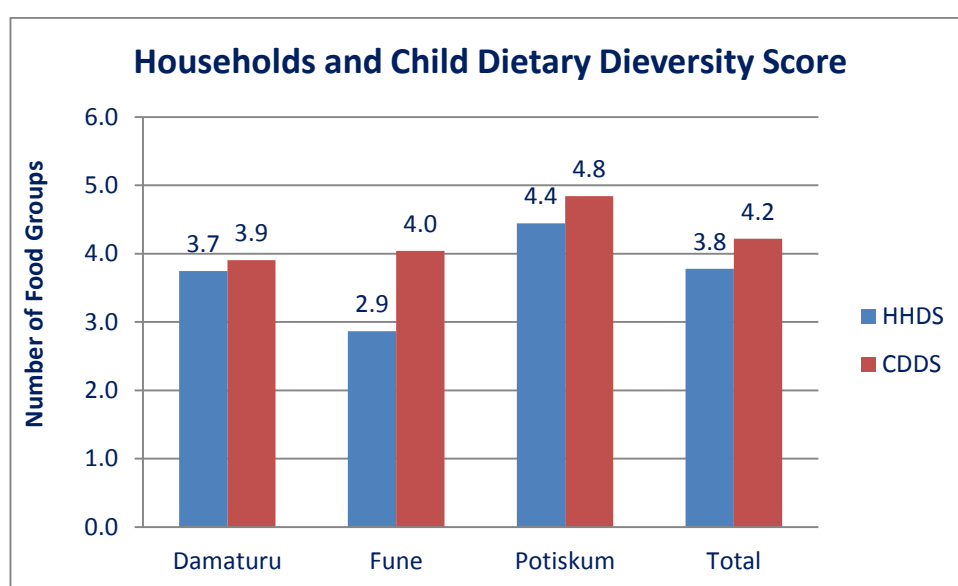


Figure 8: Household and child dietary diversity score

5. CONCLUSIONS

Overall, the households in the beneficiary sample for this baseline study show concerning and food insecure scores in all indicators. From a project management point of view, this confirms the selection of the beneficiaries, and their need for assistance.

Throughout the project implementation, post distribution monitoring on expenditure of the cash transfer and the satisfaction with the transfer delivery system, but as well some additional indicators should be collected. Especially coping strategies should be closely monitored to avoid increased negative coping strategies affecting the household resources despite transfers. As well, to verify nutritional status, M&E teams might consider the inclusion of Mid-Upper-Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurements to all children under five years of age in the targeted households.

Regular market price monitoring will be employed on bi-weekly basis to ensure markets are closely monitored.

6. ANNEXES

Annex A - Baseline Survey Questionnaire

HOUSEHOLD BASELINE QUESTIONNAIRE

FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME – YOBE STATE

LGA:

Ward

1. Name of surveyor: 2. Date of survey:

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

This section should help gather general information on the household. Since data are gathered on beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, they can help compare the two groups.

3. Questionnaire number_____

(The response must be between 1 and 1000 depending on the population.)

4. Where does the person interviewed live?

5. Is the household male- or female-headed?

¶ 1. Female-headed ¶ 2. Male-headed ¶ 3. Other

(If an adult is running the household, precise whether it is a woman or a man. If the household is not managed by an adult, precise it in "other" as orphan-headed household.)

6. If 'Other', please specify:

7. How old is the person in charge of the household?

¶ 1. Less than 16 ¶ 2. Between 16 and 30 ¶ 3. Between 30 and 60

¶ 4. Above 60

8-11. How many people are living in your household (under the same roof, eating the same meals)?

Total HH size	
Number of children under working age	
Number of dependent members (non-working, disabled, elder, etc.)	
Number of working able people	

12. What is/are the main sources of income in your household?

1. Sales of crop products.

6. Casual labour

2. Sales of livestock

7. Civil servant: Employee

3. Donkey Carrier

8. Handicraft

4. Petty trading

9. Begging

5. Remittances/Gift

10. Other

[illegible]

(Answers should be ranked from the most important activity to the occasional one. It may help compare activities between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. It may also be a way to check whether a cash-for-work activity would compete with the household's usual activities.)

13. If 'other', please specify:

(The question is only appropriate if Activity = "Other")

COPING MECHANISMS

13. Ask In the past 7 days, if there have been times when you did not have enough food or money to buy food, how often has your household had to: COPING STRATEGIES (The frequency score

varies from 0 to 7)

No.	Food Security Coping Strategy	Frequency Score(Number of days out of 7)
1.	Rely on less preferred and less expensive foods	
2.	Borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative	
3.	Purchase food on credit	
4.	Gather wild food, hunt or harvest immature crops	
5.	Consume seed stock held for next season	
6.	Send household members to eat elsewhere	
7.	Send household members to beg	
8.	Limit portion size at mealtimes	
9.	Restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat	
10.	Feed working members at the expense of non-working members	
11.	Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	
12.	Skip entire days without eating	
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)		

14. During the past month, did you or some members of your family borrow money?

¶ 1. Yes ¶ 2. No ¶ 3. Does not know

15. If YES, can you tell what the money was used for?

1. Food purchases 2. Health expenses 3. Basic needs 4. Agricultural needs
5. Livestock 6. Does not know 7. Other

(If several purchases have been made with the money borrowed, please rank them from the most to the less important one.)

16. If 'other', please specify

(The question is only appropriate if Use money borrowed = "Other")

FOOD CONSUMPTION AND ACCESS:

This section considers the food intake of the household: it should allow for a comparison between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries as well as for a follow-up of the evolution of this food security indicator.

17. Can you check the following food group, when one of its components has been eaten at least once in the previous day (Last 24 hrs)? 0 = NO 1 Yes

¶ 1. Cereals	¶ 5. Meat/poultry	¶ 9. Milk and milk products
¶ 2. Roots and tubers	¶ 6. Eggs	¶ 10. Oil/fats
¶ 3. Vegetables	¶ 7. Fish and seafood	¶ 11. Sugar/ honey
¶ 4. Fruits	¶ 8. Pulses/legumes/nuts ...	¶ 12. Miscellaneous

(More than one response can be selected. This question is interesting to calculate the dietary diversity score.)

18. Which of the following food items/groups have the child or children under five years in your HH eaten yesterday (in the last 24 hours) during the day and at night?

(The question looks at calculating under five individual dietary diversity; should be asked of the person who is responsible for food preparation & feeding of the child. OR if that person is unavailable, then another adult who was present and ate in the household the previous day.)

(Circle the answer, Yes=1, No=0)		Yes = 1	No = 0
A	Cereals (maize porridge, rice, sorghum, millet pasta, bread, rice or other)		
B	Roots and tubers (cassava, potatoes, sweet potatoes or other)		

C	Pulses/legumes/nuts (beans, peas, chick peas or other)		
D	Vegetables and leaves		
E	Fruits		
F	Meat, poultry, offal (beef, goat, lamb, poultry)		
G	Fish and Seafood		
H	Milk/Dairy products (milk, yogurt, cheese or other)		
I	Egg		
J	Sugar, Sugar product, Honey, etc.		
K	Oil/fats (oil, fat or butter)		
L	Condiments (spices, tea, coffee) or other miscellaneous food		

